

DRAFT Minutes

Underhill Conservation Commission Special Meeting re Japanese Knotweed May 6, 2020 Virtual Meeting via Google Meet

The meeting came to order at 6:37 PM

In attendance: Karen McKnight (Chair), Betsy Chapek, Peter Hiskes, Nancy McRae,
Daphne Tanis, Steve Webster

Objective: Discuss management of Japanese knotweed (JK) patches in the Crane Brook Conservation District on New Road and develop a plan to do a field trial of using ½" hardware cloth to control knotweed

Idea: Plant mint and/or beebalm--fast and densely growing herbaceous plants

Questions:

- Can they outcompete JK?
- Would planting of mint just be substituting one invasive plant for another?

Proposal:

- Plant willow and red osier dogwood on the bank where JK is approaching Crane Brook
- Install hardware cloth on the northern-most JK patch (on the west side of New Road)
- Install hardware cloth on the JK patches in the Beartown Road gravel pit in the future (after the construction of the solar array is completed)
- Unanimous approval

Next Steps:

- Create a sign to be posted by the test site to explain what is going on
 - Steve will draft text for the sign
 - Daphne will print 2 signs and "laminates" with a plastic bag
 - Peter will bring two 2x4's and a way to attach the signs (e.g., staple gun or roofing nails)
- Clear out the patch to prep for installation of the hardware cloth
 - Remove sticks, etc. and cut any JK shoots
 - Remove any JK crowns, if feasible
- Install the hardware cloth and signs
- Plant willow and red osier dogwood stems
- Public education:
 - FPF
 - Article for Mountain Gazette

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Japanese Knotweed Control Test Plot

Please Do Not Disturb!

The Underhill Conservation Commission is testing the use of ½" hardware cloth to control and hopefully kill Japanese knotweed on this site.

For more information, google "meshtech vtinvasives" or contact the Conservation Commission via Town Hall.

5/7/2020